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DPD-1405
Copy 7 of 9

27 February 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : Consolidation of Air Force Support for CIA Air Activities

1. In connection with your meeting Tuesday, March 23rd, with General Smart, Vice Chief of the Air Staff, on the topic of a projected consolidation of the two existing offices for Air Force support to CIA air activities, I have reached the conclusion, with which Colonel Geary concurs, that your discussion preferably should be limited to the single question of consolidation, without mention of the broad spectrum of problems of divided responsibility under the present arrangements, especially since a major part of these problems are internal in this Agency. My reasoning in support of this conclusion runs as follows:

A. A direct comparison between the management of CIA-USAF affairs under CHALICE and the management of CIA-USAF affairs under the general heading of "other" is invalid, since CHALICE is a joint project and other CIA air activities are not. Many of the obvious advantages attendant upon the management of CIA-USAF business matters under the CHALICE heading are solely attributable to the joint nature of the endeavor and the fact that reimbursability is not practiced by either side for the services of the other.

B. Since General Smart is not directly concerned with the conduct of, or reimbursability for, Air Force support to more-or-less conventional CIA air activities, it might only muddy the waters to open broad policy questions like the possible scrapping of the present TAB G document and the adoption of a simpler mechanism, what kinds of items or services should be reimbursed for and which should be considered as non-reimbursable.

C. Since this is the case, it would seem wisest to confine the discussion to that area where he can be of immediate assistance to us; i.e., in concurring in our proposal that the present

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two offices in Headquarters Air Force be combined, and that DCS/P&P be taken out of the air support business in favor of DCS/Ops.

2. It appears that the consolidation proposed can be supported by the simplest kind of logic, based on the fact that since CIA air activities, formerly under two managements in the Agency, have combined, it makes for greater efficiency and better understanding to have the Development Projects Division look to a single source in Headquarters Air Force for unified support. This is not to say that there will not be different types of problems within the major headings of CHALICE, GUSTO, CORONA, and other CIA air activities, and that a single system of management will apply to both. Yet consolidation within one office under one major command appears to be a valid first step in reaching a smoother operating mechanism than under a dual support concept.

3. As a matter of historical fact, the only reason for having support to other CIA air activities under the control of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Programs appears to be that in 1952, when the office was established, the best qualified officer to head it up was a [redacted] who was on duty in Subsidiary Plans Division, of that command when nominated. Suggestions were made periodically to shift the locus of support to DCS/Ops, but none enjoyed backing above the working level in either the Air Force or CIA. Yet, since Operations and not Plans is concerned with the day-to-day control and support of aircraft, which makes up the bulk of our Air Force requirements, it would appear that the proposed change need not be elaborately [redacted]. I understand Col. Geary has informally approached both [redacted] on the subject of consolidation, and neither has raised any objection. Colonel Geary also feels quite strongly that your talks with [redacted] should be along the lines I have set forth herein. Once that initial bridge is crossed, we can isolate the problems and deal with them one at a time. I have been actively engaged in identifying these problem areas, and it is quantitatively quite a job since there are so many affected areas of interest in CIA, each of which must be reviewed before remedies can be prescribed.

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SIGNED

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Chief, Administrative Branch
Deputy Projects Division

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